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# BULLETIN OF THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART

VOLUME I

NEW YORK, NOVEMBER, 1905

NUMBER I

## THE FUNCTION OF THE BULLETIN

THE scope of the Bulletin is an humble one. It is not intended to be a rival of any existing art publication. It will not consciously trespass on the sphere of any art critic. It simply aims to be a ready means of communication between the officers and staff of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and its members, using that term in its largest sense to include not only the corporate membership of the Museum, but all the citizens of New York, who though not corporate members are interested in art and who are, therefore, interested in its welfare.

To stimulate that interest by making the Museum better known to the people of our city, by showing them what the Museum can do for them, and what they, on their side, can do for the Museum, is one important purpose of this Bulletin.

Many strangers in our city are more familiar with the treasures of the Museum than are most of our citizens. Many of our citizens, who are familiar with the great museums abroad, are quite ignorant of their Museum at home. This need not excite surprise, because the foundation of the Museum is so recent and its development and progress has been so unostentatious, that few of our people, particularly among the wealthier classes, realize how great that progress has been. The working people of the East and West Sides who throng the Museum every Sunday afternoon, have, many of them, a better knowledge of the Museum's collections than the leisure classes of the Fifth Avenue quarter. It will not be the fault of the Bulletin if that condition continues.

The Bulletin will bring to the home of every member in printed form the same information which before the days of printing could have been obtained only by word of mouth from its officers. It will assume every member to be interested in the development of the Museum, and will seek to answer the questions which such interested members would naturally put to its Director and its Curators. It will serve every purpose of an "information bureau" without the necessity of a personal visit or a personal interview. In so doing it expects to encourage the personal visit.

It will contain a full list of all new acquisitions, whether by gift or purchase, and descriptions as well as illustrations, whenever practicable, of the more important objects. It will make public any change in arrangement or rules. In it will be found a full statement of all subjects of general interest relating to the Museum.

Some matters of this kind in the past have occasionally found their way into the public press. Others have had no such publicity. All such subjects, whether or not already treated in the newspapers, will find their place in the Bulletin. It is intended to contain in brief form all the Museum news for the period covered by its publication. It cannot be assumed that every member has read everything about the Museum that has anywhere appeared in print.

The Bulletin will for the present be published quarterly, on the usual quarter days, under the direction of the Secretary. It will be sent to all members in return for their subscriptions without extra charge. It will not be voluminous. Our members are most of them busy people, already overwhelmed with overmuch printed mat-

ter, and without time or inclination for any reading that is not to the point. The Bulletin will contain just the number of pages, be they more or less, which are necessary to give the information required, and there it will end, even if the last page be not filled out.

## NOTES

SEVERAL members of the Board of Trustees, including the President, Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan, the Vice-President, Mr. Rutherford Stuyvesant, the Secretary, Mr. Robert W. de Forest, the Chairman of the Executive Committee, Mr. D. O. Mills, and Mr. W. M. Laffan, spent a part of the summer in Europe, devoting much of their time to the affairs of the Museum.

Sir Caspar Purdon Clarke, the new Director of the Museum, was tendered a farewell banquet at the Criterion in London, on the evening of July 5. There were present about a hundred men distinguished in art and science, with Sir John Gorst in the chair.

ATTENDANCE.—Among the 631,452 visitors to the Museum since January 1, were a class of cadets from West Point, who, with their instructors, paid their annual visit to the Museum, and a large number of the members of the National Educational Association, who, on their return from the sessions at Asbury Park, took advantage of the opportunity which had been arranged for them to see the Museum.

MUSIC TEACHERS' NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.—On June 23, this association, in session at the Teachers' College, Columbia University, visited the Museum, and listened to a lecture by Miss F. Morris of the Museum staff, on the Crosby-Brown Collection of Musical Instruments. After the lecture, the collection of more than 3,500 instruments was viewed by the members.

At the request of Mr. E. M. Bowman, Conductor of "The Temple Choir," Brooklyn, this lecture was repeated on the evening of October 30.

REARRANGEMENT OF COLLECTIONS.—The Museum was closed from May 1 to 9 for the annual "Spring Cleaning," and to afford an opportunity to make the changes necessitated by additions. These changes

were duly noticed in the daily papers, and will not be repeated here, at this time. Hereafter such changes will be noticed whenever they occur.

THE LIBRARY.—Few of our visitors realize the size and value of the Museum's library. It contains upward of 9,000 volumes on Art, Archæology and the Industrial Arts, and here may be found, also, a large collection of photographs connected with the same subjects.

The Library is open daily, except Sunday, and students and others are cordially welcome. It is entered from Gallery 15.

During the quarter ending September 30, there have been added 411 volumes, of which six were gifts. The donors were:

Mr. George Hall Baker, Mr. Robert W. de Forest, The Smithsonian Institution and Mr. Theodore Sutro.

Of the purchased volumes, two hundred and forty-one were bought with the income from the Rogers Fund.

THE ANNUAL REPORT, 1905.—The thirty-fifth annual report of the Trustees of the Museum was issued in April, 1905. All who have at heart the interests of the Museum should read this statement of the policy of the Trustees at this epoch when, the generation of those who directed the early development of the Museum having almost entirely passed away, the newer generation "enter upon their labors, and into the opportunities which their labors have created."

The following important matters of Museum policy are briefly treated: the "Future Policy of the Museum; Directorship;" "Departmental Organization and Curatorships," "Systematic Development and Arrangement of our Collections," "Public Support" and "Collections of American Art." Those who would inform themselves on the attitude of the Trustees upon these subjects are referred to the report, where they are so well discussed that it has been deemed inexpedient to repeat them here. The report has been sent to members and may be procured by anyone upon application to the Secretary's office.

THE JACOB H. LAZARUS SCHOLARSHIP FOR THE STUDY OF MURAL PAINTING.—The fund for this scholarship, amounting to \$24,000, was presented to the Museum in 1892 by Mrs. Amelia B. Lazarus and Miss Amelie Lazarus, as a memorial to Jacob H. Lazarus, the American painter.